

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (CA-47) today condemned Republicans for voting to repeal health care reform for millions of Americans across the country, including hundreds of thousands of families in California's 47<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. Despite the fact that over 80% of the American public opposes repealing the entire health care law, House Republicans forged ahead in passing the Patients' Rights Repeal Act, which would jeopardize coverage for children with pre-existing conditions, increase prescription drug payments for seniors, eliminate the ban on annual and lifetime limits on health insurance coverage, and increase the tax burden for families and small businesses.

"Orange County families simply can't afford the Patients' Rights Repeal Act," said Rep. Sanchez. "Under this bill, my constituents would see their out-of-pocket health costs go up and local hospitals would be burdened with tens of millions of dollars in uncompensated care costs. In some tragic cases, families would lose their coverage completely."

By repealing the important benefits provided in the new health care law, the Patients' Rights Repeal Act would cause millions of families to lose coverage due to rising costs and increase the national debt by over \$1 trillion. In Orange County alone, the repeal of health care reform would create significant burdens for local families by:

- Allowing insurance companies to deny coverage to 98,000 to 273,000 individuals, including 10,000 to 47,000 children, with pre-existing conditions. These individuals include those who are breast cancer survivors and prostate cancer survivors; those living with heart disease; and those with such conditions as asthma and high blood pressure.
- Eliminating new health care coverage options for 3,800 uninsured young adults.
- Taking away the 50% discount on brand-name Rx drugs from 3,900 seniors who hit the Medicare Part D 'donut hole;' and denying free preventive care services under Medicare to 51,000 seniors.
- Eliminating health care tax credits available for up to 17,600 small businesses and 123,000 families.
- Increasing the costs local hospitals pay by providing uncompensated care by \$24 million annually.
- Eliminating the ban on insurers dropping people from coverage when they get sick, which protects 267,000 individuals who have health insurance through their employer or the market for private insurance
- Increasing the costs of coverage for up to 5,400 early retirees.

"Health care repeal may be good politics for House Republicans, but it's bad policy," said Rep.

Sanchez. "Our number-one priority for the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress should be strengthening the economy. Republicans need to stop trying to score cheap political points with bills like the Patients' Rights Repeal Act and start working with Democrats to create jobs, strengthen the middle class, and bring down the long-term deficit."